

S-E-C-R-E-T

22 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM: Acting Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. African Bureau

Progress continued to be satisfactory.

a. The operations building plans and specifications were submitted to four contractors who had expressed an interest in the project. Because of delay in completion of architect and engineering work, the bid opening date was extended to 23 March 1961.

b. After extensive consultations with the housing contractor, it now appears that the completion dates of six to seven months can be met. Clearing of sites and concrete block construction will start shortly. In an effort to keep delays to a minimum materials available in Nigeria will be used where possible.

c. Three leased apartments were occupied by bureau personnel during the month.

d. The Bureau hired its second monitor trainee (French/English) during the month. A native cruising monitor was also hired and his training begun.

e. On 2 February, the Daily Report published in its Middle East & West Europe book the first contribution wirefiled from the new African Bureau--a three-page interview monitored from Radio Garoua and translated from the Hausa and Fulani languages. On 2 March the FBIS Wire transmitted to recipients its first selection of material received from Kaduna.

50X1

2. The following steps were taken during the month in an effort to improve FBIS's capability to provide coverage of Laos:

- (a) The Chief, Saigon Bureau, was asked to go to Bangkok to undertake recruitment of at least one additional Laotian monitor.
- (b) A study was made of the value of a small, temporary monitoring operation at Vientiane. At month's end, the feasibility and probable value of such an operation

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were being evaluated against its cost,
not only in terms of money, but also
disruption of efforts to monitor Laotian
broadcasts from other FBIS field bureaus. [REDACTED]

50X1

3. At an ad hoc meeting on Direction Finding, attended by Agency representatives on 13 February, it was generally agreed that FBIS would be the Agency DF control point. The FBIS Operations Staff will handle requirements and maintain contact with the supporting activities, and the Engineering Staff will plot locations on the basis of reports received. Further negotiations are to be held regarding internal coordination procedures. [REDACTED]

50X1

4. Field Operations Staff prepared a report on the feasibility of a monitoring post at Chiangmai, Thailand for the purpose of covering Chinese regional stations. The study determined that only a few additional stations could be covered at Chiangmai and that the usefulness of such a monitoring operation would be quite limited. A copy was forwarded to BBC. [REDACTED]

50X1

5. Of 228 items included in the Current Intelligence Digest during February, 73 (31 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [REDACTED]

50X1

6. During the month 88 percent of Daily Report pages were devoted to broadcast material and 12 percent to press scrutiny. [REDACTED]

50X1

7. On 7 March an [REDACTED] was issued by FBIS carrying the text of a TASS directive on improving and expanding USSR news and propaganda dissemination, particularly in regard to electrical communications. The directive, transmitted over the TASS Cyrillic circuit to domestic recipients, was intercepted and processed at the Mediterranean Bureau. [REDACTED]

50X1

50X1

8. Following strong expressions of consumer interest, London and Mediterranean Bureaus were asked to coordinate inclusion of Soviet bloc roundup material on the area in the Middle East Review currently disseminated from Cyprus, either by mail or radioteletype, to more than 20 lateral consumers. [REDACTED]

50X1

9. All bureaus are again reminded that proper flagging of wire-filed material destined for lateral distribution in raw-copy form in Washington will greatly improve this important consumer service. Attention is called to the following material which should always be flagged COPY TO LIAISON: Any significant mention of a U.S. member of congress; all significant reports on movements or activities in the

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Antarctic region; any mention of espionage or other intelligence activities from any broadcast source; all reports on defectors, re-defectors and any U.S. citizens traveling in communist countries. In this connection all editors should review the list of continuing FBIS requirements distributed to the field in September 1960.

[REDACTED]

50X1

10. Bureaus are aware that Headquarters is attempting to use the new post office box number for all mail and for all shipments to field bureaus ([REDACTED]). However, in some recent instances mail, daily reports, and other items have been dispatched in wrappers bearing the 2430 E Street, N.W. return address. Bureaus should report discrepancies of this nature promptly by letter in order that appropriate remedial steps can be taken. [REDACTED]

50X1

50X1

PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT [REDACTED]

50X1

1. A Radio Propaganda Report was issued on "The Fourth Albanian Party Congress: Formal Deference to Moscow, Vigorous Support for Peking" [REDACTED]

50X1

2. A Propaganda Analysis Item on the FBIS Wire discussed "Precedents for Khrushchev's Claim that the USSR Had the H-Bomb Before the United States" [REDACTED]

50X1

3. The following are among Radio Propaganda Reports projected or under consideration within the next few months (responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. "Soviet Propaganda Treatment of the Idea of International Cooperation in Outer Space" [REDACTED]

50X1

b. "Polish Literary and Cultural Developments Since the 10th Congress of the Polish Writers Union" [REDACTED]

50X1

c. "Contrasting Soviet and Chinese Views on 'National Liberation Movements'" [REDACTED]

50X1

d. "Problems Encountered in the Administration of CPR Communes" [REDACTED]

50X1

4. RPB has had a number of calls from analysts in consumer offices expressing appreciation for the Okinawa Bureau's daily reviews of editorials and lead articles in the CPR regional press, as broadcast by regional radios. These reviews were begun in early February and have been published regularly in the Far East DAILY REPORT. RPB analysts have themselves found the reviews extremely useful. The branch is currently concerned especially with the activities of the new CCP "regional bureaus," which thus far have drawn no attention in CPR central propaganda media and in which our major consumers have indicated particular interest.

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EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENT

GENERAL

1. On 7 February a table of contents was added to the Daily Report's Latin American book, enhancing its value as a source of reference and making it conform in that respect to the other area books.

2. On 3 March the Daily Report published Supplement No. 3 containing reports and speeches given at the Fourth Congress of the Albanian Workers Party held 13 - 20 February 1961 in Tirana.

3. When a name rendered in phonetics cannot be reconciled with known pronunciation or spelling, the best available phonetics should be filed. A note indicating phonetic rendering should be included to differentiate it from normal pronunciation heard unclearly. An instruction to this effect is contemplated for the revised Editorial Handbook.

4. When speeches of a leader are not monitored from live broadcasts, every effort should be made to supply headquarters with specific information as to place and date of individual speeches. Particularly when dealing with a tour, such as Khrushchev's visits to agricultural centers, editors should subjug speeches or reportage with sufficient detail to make each item independent.

African Bureau

1. Thus far the Cairo material wirefiled to headquarters has not been of much value. It is suggested that unless a switch in the Cairo propaganda line to the Africans is detected or suspected, or unless specific items appear of more than average importance, compact FYI's be wirefiled in place of textual renditions.

2. Material thus far pouched to Washington, especially items monitored from Radio Garoua, have been read with interest and scrutinized for delayed-publication value.

East Coast Bureau

1 The efforts of editors to anticipate headquarters needs for material to be included in the daily briefing at 9:00 a.m. and the "Pink Sheet," which has a deadline of approximately 11:00 a.m., are appreciated by the Projects Staff. Use of the flag COPY TO PROJECTS STAFF on late, topical reaction to major developments, particularly with regard to press reviews filed during the early morning hours, assures the staff a conveniently available copy for last-minute use

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London Bureau

1. Items such as LO81811 Prague CTK 081600 mentioning FBIS monitoring operations on Cyprus should be flagged COPY TO SEELY.

2. The bureau's initial FYI on TASS's announcement 9 March that a Soviet spaceship had orbited and landed safely on Soviet territory was received in Washington in time to beat the AP by exactly one minute.

Mediterranean Bureau

1. Writers of the Middle East Review are advised that insertion of party affiliation after the names of Israeli newspapers will be helpful.

2. The bureau is to be commended for its initiative in compiling a list of names, constituencies, and party affiliations involved in elections to the 20th Iranian Majlis. While press scrutiny is not a regular function of the bureau, newspaper confirmation and clarification of namelists unreliably received from broadcasts serves an excellent purpose.

3. President Nasir's 20 February speech in Latakia, Syria, was published in the Daily Report the next day. His subsequent speeches were also carried promptly and fully. The first diplomatic reports were dated 23 February.

Okinawa and Saigon Bureaus

1. This is a reminder that headquarters should be informed as quickly as possible as to the availability and state of processing of repeat or parallel transmissions involving lengthy reports or speeches previously processed and filed. The Daily Report can then hold up publication so as to supply consumers with the fullest and most dependable version.

Okinawa and West Coast Bureaus

1. Prompt FYI's from both bureaus concerning NCNA and home service transmissions of the CPR Government statement on exchange of journalists was greatly appreciated. They facilitated Daily Report publication of the text of the statement the same day.

ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATIONS

1. The Broadcast Information Section of Field Operations Staff received a letter of commendation from the Chief of the Office of Research and Analysis (ORA) of USIA for special broadcast surveys and statistical data supplied over the past few years. This commendation

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should be considered as applying also to the cruising monitors at the various bureaus who have contributed material for most of the BIS surveys and special projects.

2. In computing the hours monitored for bureau production reports, bureaus are requested to indicate, as of 1 May, weekly rather than daily hours of broadcasts monitored. Press and Voice broadcasts should continue to be shown separately. Priority four and five coverage as well as irregular and experimental coverage should no longer be considered in the computations of the bureaus intercepting.

3. Bureaus are reminded that programs given Priority 3 ratings are processed routinely, unless ad hoc requirements necessitate temporary suspension of processing. They should not be confused with "Irregular" coverage, which should be so indicated in the "Days Covered" column.

4. During the past month the BIS released extensive revisions to Parts I and II of the Program Schedules of Foreign Broadcasting Stations. An innovation in Part II is the inclusion of special foreword pages on broadcasting activities, network arrangements, political slanting of commentaries, etc., of Latin American radio stations.

5. TMC long and medium wave multicoupler tests have shown certain deficiencies which must be corrected by the contractor. The latter provided an inspection team which confirmed FBIS Field engineer reports. All units have been removed from stock and the contractor is now making the necessary modifications in his Washington area shop.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Dollar value opening inventories for the West Coast Bureau and Panama Post were submitted to the Office of Logistics. All FBIS field installations are now under Type II financial property accountability.

2. [redacted] was appointed Chief, Editorial Branch, 2 February, vice [redacted] transferred to the West Coast Bureau. [redacted] was appointed Chief, Radio Propaganda Branch, on 23 February, vice [redacted] transferred to the London Bureau.

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3. Requests for PCS travel orders involving shipment of a privately owned automobile should indicate whether the vehicle is of American or foreign make. If the vehicle is of foreign make, the request should state that it was purchased before 1 March 1961.

4. The following FBIS regulatory issuance was released during the month of February:

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PERSONNEL CHANGES

1. New Employees

Assignment

Editor, USSR & EE
Sect., Editorial
Branch

Editor, ME, WE, LA
Sect. Editorial
Branch

Clerk Typist
Editorial Branch

Secretary, Office of
the Chief

Teletypist
Editorial Branch

Editor, USSR & EE
Sect., Editorial
Branch

Librarian
Editorial Branch

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2. Reassignments

From

Chief
London Bureau

Senior Editor
Editorial Br.

Senior Editor
Editorial Br.

To

Chief
Radio Propaganda Br.

Senior Editor
London Bureau

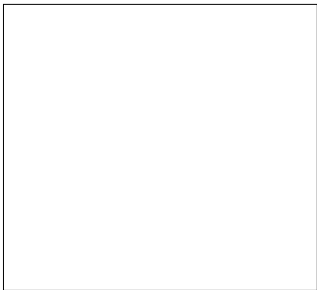
Senior Editor
African Bureau

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3. Separations



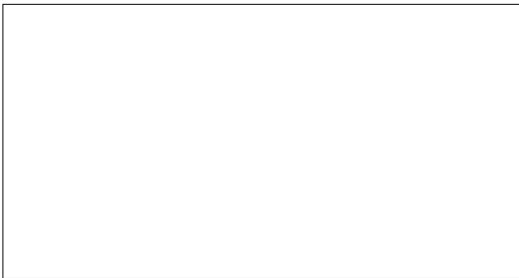
From

Watch Officer
West Coast Bureau

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Teletypist
East Coast Bureau

Teletypist
Editorial Branch



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